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STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

J. ERIC DIETZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**IDHS URGES PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS AND FIRST RESPONDERS
NOT TO SELF-DEPLOY**

Indianapolis – As Hoosiers continue to show their support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) wants to remind Hoosier public safety and first responder personnel today not to self-deploy people or assets to the disaster area.

"Every day members of public safety and first responder organizations wake up with one mission in mind: securing the safety and well-being of others. So, their desire to help the victims of Katrina is completely understandable," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "However, it at the request of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security we are issuing the request not to self-deploy personnel or equipment from these agencies."

In order to ensure a coordinated response to Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security requests the nation's law enforcement, fire and emergency response agencies to work through their state's emergency management agency, which is IDHS in Indiana. This enables response and recovery efforts to flow through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Through EMAC, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, there by resolving issues of liability and reimbursement. In addition, the EMAC helps insulate other states' personnel from unforeseen accidents, injuries or legal actions.

IDHS also wants to reiterate its request that Hoosiers interested in aiding victims of Hurricane Katrina consider a financial contribution to a disaster relief organization. Additionally, IDHS also urges anyone interested in helping in the recovery not to self-deploy to the area but to coordinate with a disaster relief organization.

<p>Editor's Note: A list of contact information for public safety personnel, first responders and citizens is attached.</p>
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Media Contact:

Pam Bright, IDHS Director Public Information & Outreach
317-232-6632



Contacts for Hoosiers Interested in Assisting with Hurricane Relief

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRST RESPONDER PERSONNEL:

Law Enforcement Personnel:

Indiana State Police

katrina@isp.state.in.us

Doug Gosser, Indiana Sheriff's Association

800-622-4779

Fire Personnel:

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

fire@dhs.in.gov

Emergency Medical Services Personnel:

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

ems@dhs.in.gov

Public Health Personnel:

Indiana State Department of Health

mhurst@isdh.in.gov

ALL HOOSIERS:

Indiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (INVOAD)

www.invoad.org

866-909-4673

Indiana 2-1-1

www.in211.org

Dial 2-1-1 in 39 Indiana counties